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New Mexico Labor Market Review

GARREY CARRUTHERS, GOVERNOR
EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DEPARTMENT
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Volume 16, No. 2, March 31, 1987
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New Mexico's unemployment situation was little changed in February, according to preliminary labor force estimates. The State's unemployment rate was 9.8 percent, down slightly from 9.9 percent in January. The number of unemployed edged down by 300 from January to total 65,400. Although relatively unchanged over the month, both the number and rate of unemployment continue to reflect deterioration over the longer term. Approximately 4,900 more persons in New Mexico are unemployed now than one year ago, and the jobless rate is half a percentage point higher. Much of this increased unemployment since early 1986 is the result of substantial layoffs in the mining industry, particularly in the oil & gas extraction and metal subsectors, along with reductions in transportation & utilities and slower job growth in retail trade and services.

Total nonagricultural payroll employment rose by 3,700 between January and February, due largely to seasonal increases in government and services. Employment in state government experienced a reduction last month due to semester breaks at public educational institutions. These losses were recouped in February, causing an increase of 2,700 jobs in state government. The 700 job gain in services was spread largely among the amusements and private education subsectors.

Job reductions were recorded during the month in retail trade and construction, both fairly normal changes for February. Mining employment held steady over the month; however there were contrasting movements within the industry. Oil & gas extraction declined by 300 jobs from January, but this gain was offset by the reopening of a potash mine in the Carlsbad area.

FEBRUARY SUMMARY

	Prel.	Revised		Change From	
	Feb. 1987	Jan. 1987	Feb. 1986	Jan. 1987	Feb. 1986
Civilian Labor Force	669,400	664,300	653,300	+ 5,100	+16,100
Employment	604,000	598,600	592,800	+ 5,400	+11,200
Unemployment	65,400	65,700	60,500	- 300	+4,900
Rate	9.8%	9.9%	9.3%		

ESTIMATED NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT (JOBS)
(Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

NEW MEXICO	PRELIM FEB 1987	REVISED JAN 1987	REVISED FEB 1986	FEB CHANGE FROM JAN 1987	FEB CHANGE FROM FEB 1986
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT 1/	527,600	523,900	521,100	3,700	6,500
MINING	14,700	14,700	19,000	0	-4,300
Metal Mining	1,800	1,800	2,700	0	-900
Bituminous Coal, Quarrying etc	3,900	3,600	3,600	300	300
Oil & Gas Extraction	9,000	9,300	12,700	-300	-3,700
CONSTRUCTION	32,800	33,000	32,700	-200	100
MANUFACTURING	37,100	37,100	36,600	0	500
DURABLE GOODS	24,000	23,900	24,000	100	0
Lumber & Wood Products	2,600	2,600	2,500	0	100
Machinery(except electric)	2,500	2,500	2,700	0	-200
Elec & Electronic Equip	4,300	4,300	4,700	0	-400
Transportation Equipment	4,200	4,200	4,000	0	200
Other Durable Goods	10,400	10,300	10,100	100	300
NONDURABLE GOODS	13,100	13,200	12,600	-100	500
Food & Kindred Products	4,100	4,200	3,800	-100	300
Textile & Apparel	2,400	2,400	2,400	0	0
Other Nondurable Goods	6,600	6,600	6,400	0	200
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	29,000	28,700	29,500	300	-500
TRANSPORTATION	12,900	12,800	12,700	100	200
Railroad Transportation	2,200	2,200	2,200	0	0
Trucking & Warehousing	5,900	5,800	6,000	100	-100
Other Transportation	4,800	4,800	4,500	0	300
COMMUNICATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	16,100	15,900	16,800	200	-700
Communication	6,700	6,700	7,100	0	-400
Elec, Gas, & Sanitary Services	9,400	9,200	9,700	200	-300
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	127,100	127,700	122,500	-600	4,600
WHOLESALE TRADE	22,300	22,200	22,700	100	-400
Durable Goods	13,400	13,300	13,400	100	0
Nondurable Goods	8,900	8,900	9,300	0	-400
RETAIL TRADE	104,800	105,500	99,800	-700	5,000
Bldg Material & Mobile Homes	4,400	4,300	4,300	100	100
General Merchandise Stores	12,100	12,500	11,300	-400	800
Food Stores	16,000	16,000	14,600	0	1,400
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	13,300	13,200	12,800	100	500
Apparel & Accessories	5,400	5,900	5,300	-500	100
Furniture & Furnishing	4,500	4,500	4,300	0	200
Eating & Drinking Places	37,000	37,000	35,700	0	1,300
Miscellaneous Retail	12,100	12,100	11,500	0	600
FINANCE, INSURANCE, & REAL ESTATE	26,900	27,000	26,200	-100	700
Banking	8,000	8,000	8,100	0	-100
Insurance Carriers	3,800	3,700	3,500	100	300
Insur Agents, Brokers & Service	2,900	2,900	2,800	0	100
Real Estate	6,200	6,400	6,100	-200	100
Other Fin, Ins & Real Estate	6,000	6,000	5,700	0	300
SERVICES	119,200	118,500	115,600	700	3,600
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	11,300	11,400	10,500	-100	800
Personal Services	6,000	6,100	5,900	-100	100
Business Services	27,700	27,800	27,800	-100	-100
Health Services	29,700	29,700	28,300	0	1,400
Legal Services	4,000	4,000	3,900	0	100
Educational Services	5,300	5,000	5,100	300	200
Social Services	6,300	6,200	7,000	100	-700
Membership Organizations	6,200	6,000	5,600	200	600
Other Services	22,700	22,300	21,500	400	1,200
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	140,800	137,200	139,000	3,600	1,800
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT	29,900	29,700	29,700	200	200
STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT	110,900	107,500	109,300	3,400	1,600
State Government 2/	51,400	48,700	50,900	2,700	500
Local Government	59,500	58,800	58,400	700	1,100

1/ Estimates include all full-time and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period which included the 12th day of the month. Self-employed, family workers, household workers and members of the Armed Forces are excluded.

2/ Includes employees of Los Alamos National Laboratory.

ALBUQUERQUE AREA (BERNALILLO COUNTY)

HIGHLIGHTS

According to preliminary labor force estimates, the Albuquerque area unemployment rate fell to 6.4 percent in February, down from the 6.7 percent rate experienced in January. The number of Albuquerque jobseekers declined by 800 between January and February.

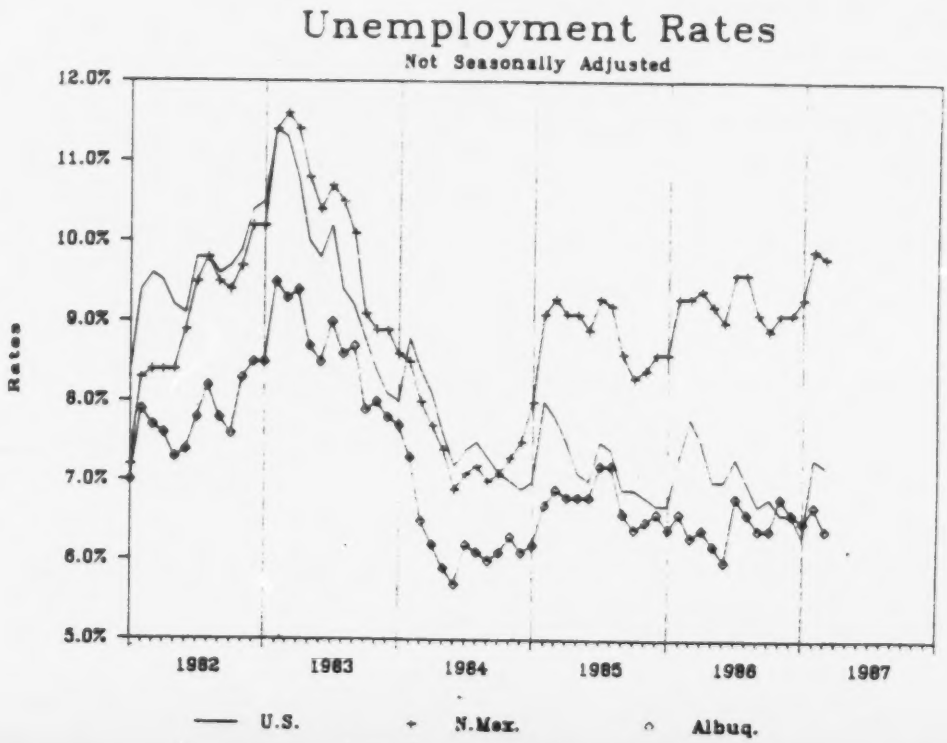
Nonagricultural wage and salary payrolls increased by 1,600 jobs over the month. Most of this gain occurred in State government, as student workers were hired for part-time jobs at the university as the spring semester got underway. The start of the spring horse racing season also accounted for a large number of new jobs in February, and smaller additions were recorded in several other segments of the services division. On the minus side, jobs were lost in retail trade as general merchandise stores and apparel & accessory stores continued their normal post-holiday layoffs.

Approximately 5,000 jobs have been added to nonagricultural payrolls over the past twelve months, reflecting an annual growth rate of 2.2 percent. In comparison to recent years, this is a relatively slow rate of growth. The Albuquerque area experienced job growth above six percent in both 1984 and 1985.

As usual, the largest increases this February were seen in services and trade, as health services, business services, miscellaneous services, eating & drinking places, and food stores all registered employment gains. Construction, particularly building construction, and finance, insurance, & real estate also registered over-the-year advances. Local government has added 600 employees over the year, but State government shows a decrease of 1,400 since last February. Manufacturing has experienced almost no change in total employment in the past twelve months.

FEBRUARY SUMMARY

	Prel.	Revised		Change From	
	Feb. 1987	Jan. 1987	Feb. 1986	Jan. 1987	Feb. 1986
Civilian Labor Force	256,300	255,100	247,100	+1,200	+9,200
Employment	239,900	237,900	231,600	+2,000	+8,300
Unemployment	16,400	17,200	15,500	- 800	+ 900
Rate	6.4%	6.7%	6.3%		



ESTIMATED NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT (JOBS)
(Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

ALBUQUERQUE MSA (BERNALILLO COUNTY)	PRELIM FEB 1987	REVISED JAN 1987	REVISED FEB 1986	FEB CHANGE FROM JAN 1987	FEB CHANGE FROM FEB 1986
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT 1/	228,100	226,500	223,100	1,600	5,000
MINING	200	200	200	0	0
CONSTRUCTION	16,300	16,400	15,800	-100	500
MANUFACTURING	19,300	19,300	19,300	0	0
Durable Goods	13,900	13,900	13,800	0	100
Nondurable Goods	5,400	5,400	5,500	0	-100
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	12,500	12,500	12,300	0	200
Transportation	6,100	6,100	5,800	0	300
Communication	3,800	3,800	3,900	0	-100
Elec, Gas, & Sanitary Services	2,600	2,600	2,600	0	0
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	58,200	58,600	56,400	-400	1,800
WHOLESALE TRADE	14,100	14,000	14,100	100	0
Durable Goods	9,600	9,500	9,500	100	100
Nondurable Goods	4,500	4,500	4,600	0	-100
RETAIL TRADE	44,100	44,600	42,300	-500	1,800
General Merchandise Stores	4,700	5,000	4,600	-300	100
Food Stores	5,100	5,100	4,700	0	400
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	4,800	4,800	4,700	0	100
Eating & Drinking Places	16,800	16,700	16,200	100	600
Other Retail Trade	12,700	13,000	12,100	-300	600
FINANCE, INSURANCE, & REAL ESTATE	14,500	14,600	13,900	-100	600
Banking	3,100	3,100	3,200	0	-100
Ins Carriers, Agents & Brokers	4,200	4,200	3,900	0	300
Other Fin, Ins & Real Estate	7,200	7,300	6,800	-100	400
SERVICES	62,500	61,700	59,900	800	2,600
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	3,700	3,800	3,600	-100	100
Personal Services	3,300	3,200	3,100	100	200
Business Services	20,100	20,000	19,600	100	500
Health Services	14,300	14,200	13,600	100	700
Social Services	2,900	2,900	2,800	0	100
Membership Organizations	1,600	1,600	1,800	0	-200
Other Services	16,600	16,000	15,400	600	1,200
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	44,600	43,200	45,300	1,400	-700
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT	12,800	12,700	12,700	100	100
STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT	31,800	30,500	32,600	1,300	-800
State Government	12,300	11,200	13,700	1,100	-1,400
Local Government	19,500	19,300	18,900	200	600

1/ Estimates include all full-time and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period which included the 12th day of the month. Self-employed, family workers, household workers and members of the Armed Forces are excluded.

ESTIMATED NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT (JOBS)
(Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

LAS CRUCES MSA (DONA ANA COUNTY) 1/	PRELIM FEB 1987	REVISED JAN 1987	REVISED FEB 1986	FEB CHANGE FROM JAN 1987	FEB CHANGE FROM FEB 1986
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT 2/	40,800	39,850	39,050	950	1,750
MINING	50	50	50	0	0
CONSTRUCTION	2,700	2,600	2,500	100	200
MANUFACTURING	3,050	3,150	3,050	-100	0
Durable Goods	1,150	1,150	1,150	0	0
Nondurable Goods	1,900	2,000	1,900	-100	0
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	1,350	1,350	1,300	0	50
Transportation	500	500	500	0	0
Comm, Elec, Gas & Sanitary Svs	850	850	800	0	50
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	7,700	7,800	7,600	-100	100
WHOLESALE TRADE	850	850	850	0	0
RETAIL TRADE	6,850	6,950	6,750	-100	100
General Merchandise Stores	900	950	850	-50	50
Food Stores	1,050	1,050	1,000	0	50
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	850	850	850	0	0
Eating & Drinking Places	2,600	2,600	2,600	0	0
Other Retail Trade	1,450	1,500	1,450	-50	0
FINANCE, INSURANCE, & REAL ESTATE	1,550	1,550	1,550	0	0
SERVICES	6,100	6,050	5,600	50	500
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	750	750	500	0	250
Business Services	1,100	1,100	1,000	0	100
Health Services	1,700	1,650	1,450	50	250
Social Services	250	250	250	0	0
Other Services	2,300	2,300	2,400	0	-100
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	18,300	17,300	17,400	1,100	900
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT	4,300	4,400	4,400	-100	-100
STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT	14,000	12,900	13,000	1,100	1,000
State Government	8,900	7,800	7,900	1,100	1,000
Local Government	5,100	5,100	5,100	0	0

SANTA FE MSA (SANTA FE & LOS ALAMOS COUNTIES) 1/	PRELIM FEB 1987	REVISED JAN 1987	REVISED FEB 1986	FEB CHANGE FROM JAN 1987	FEB CHANGE FROM FEB 1986
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT 2/	53,200	53,200	51,000	0	2,200
MINING	100	100	150	0	-50
CONSTRUCTION	3,100	3,200	2,800	-100	300
MANUFACTURING	1,550	1,550	1,550	0	0
Durable Goods	950	950	950	0	0
Nondurable Goods	600	600	600	0	0
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	1,150	1,150	1,350	0	-200
Transportation	400	400	400	0	0
Comm, Elec, Gas & Sanitary Svs	750	750	950	0	-200
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	10,500	10,500	9,550	0	950
WHOLESALE TRADE	700	700	700	0	0
RETAIL TRADE	9,800	9,800	8,850	0	950
General Merchandise Stores	900	950	800	-50	100
Food Stores	1,800	1,800	1,250	0	550
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	800	750	800	50	0
Eating & Drinking Places	3,700	3,700	3,600	0	100
Other Retail Trade	2,600	2,600	2,400	0	200
FINANCE, INSURANCE, & REAL ESTATE	2,100	2,100	1,950	0	150
SERVICES	13,100	13,100	12,550	0	550
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	1,700	1,700	1,550	0	150
Business Services	2,900	3,000	3,100	-100	-200
Health Services	3,000	3,000	2,800	0	200
Social Services	600	600	600	0	0
Other Services	4,900	4,800	4,500	100	400
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	21,600	21,500	21,100	100	500
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT	1,500	1,500	1,500	0	0
STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT	20,100	20,000	19,600	100	500
State Government 3/	16,300	16,300	15,900	0	400
Local Government	3,800	3,700	3,700	100	100

1/ In accordance with the CES Manual, those published cells with less than 2,000 employees are rounded to nearest 50. Those published cells with more than 2,000 employees are rounded to 100.
2/ Estimates include all full-time and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period which included the 12th day of the month. Self-employed, family workers, household workers and members of the Armed Forces are excluded.
3/ Includes employees of Los Alamos National Laboratory.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS

Hours and Earnings of Production, Construction and Nonsupervisory Employees
(Prepared in cooperation with the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

NEW MEXICO	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS			AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS			AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS		
	FEB 1987	JAN 1987	FEB 1986	FEB 1987	JAN 1987	FEB 1986	FEB 1987	JAN 1987	FEB 1986
MINING	$470.60	$502.22	$511.68	41.1	40.6	41.6	11.45	12.37	12.30
CONSTRUCTION	$397.41	$391.32	$382.95	36.9	36.1	33.8	10.77	10.84	11.33
MANUFACTURING	$333.92	$330.62	$325.56	39.8	38.4	37.9	8.39	8.61	8.59
Durable Goods	$333.63	$341.05	$333.52	40.1	38.8	37.9	8.32	8.79	8.80
Nondurable Goods	$334.31	$307.88	$305.75	39.1	37.5	37.7	8.55	8.21	8.11
COMMUNICATION & UTILITIES	$547.82	$550.09	$477.00	40.4	41.8	42.4	13.56	13.16	11.25
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	$225.34	$212.84	$217.78	32.8	32.2	31.7	6.87	6.61	6.87
Wholesale Trade	$404.61	$382.39	$393.41	40.1	39.3	40.6	10.09	9.73	9.69
Retail Trade	$191.23	$181.38	$182.09	31.4	30.9	29.9	6.09	5.87	6.09
BANKING	$251.34	$249.37	$231.66	42.1	41.7	40.5	5.97	5.98	5.72
ALBUQUERQUE MSA	**FEB 1987**	**JAN 1987**	**FEB 1986**	**FEB 1987**	**JAN 1987**	**FEB 1986**	**FEB 1987**	**JAN 1987**	**FEB 1986**
MANUFACTURING	$370.52	$348.66	$339.00	40.1	39.0	39.1	9.24	8.94	8.67
Durable Goods	$376.80	$358.81	$355.21	40.0	39.3	39.6	9.42	9.13	8.97
Nondurable Goods	$318.06	$314.12	$290.27	38.0	37.8	37.6	8.37	8.31	7.72

NOTE: Estimates include all full-time and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period which included the 12th day of the month. Self-employed, family workers, household workers and members of the Armed Forces are excluded. The average earnings are "gross" reflecting not only changes in basic hourly and incentive wage rates but also such factors as premium pay for overtime and shift differentials. The work week information relates to the average hours for which pay was received, and is different from standard or scheduled hours due to absenteeism, labor turnover, part time work, overtime work etc.

U.S. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

	Feb. 1987	Jan. 1987	Feb. 1986	Percent Change Jan.'87-Feb.'87	Percent Change Feb.'86-Feb.'87
CPI-U	334.4	333.1	327.5	+0.4%	+2.1%
CPI-W	329.0	327.7	323.2	+0.4%	+1.8%

Index Base Year 1967 = 100

CPI-U - All Urban Consumers
CPI-W - Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

AREA ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

ALBUQUERQUE AREA: Construction is expected to begin shortly at Louisiana and San Antonio, N.E. on the 22,700-square-foot Vista Del Norte Plaza shopping center and the 168-unit Vista Del Sol apartment complex. Construction is expected by this summer on three large projects at Renaissance Center: a 100,000-square-foot office/showroom, a 168-unit luxury apartment complex, and a 126-unit motel. Bennigan's has opened its second Albuquerque restaurant at 6321 San Mateo, N.E.; the 275-seat facility employs about 100 workers. The family that owns the Territorial House restaurant in Corrales is building the first of what is planned to become a chain of fast-food restaurants; the facility is under construction on Menaul Blvd. west of San Mateo and is scheduled for an April opening. Construction has begun on a 92,000-square-foot shopping center at I-40 and NM 14 in Tijeras. Kennedy Lumber plans to relocate to the new center and expand into a full home supply/hardware store. Best West Properties Inc., a sister company of Mountain Bell, is planning to build a hotel office complex directly south of the Civic Plaza. The complex, to be named Albuquerque Plaza, will include a 450-room hotel, an 18-story office tower, and a 41,000-square-foot retail area. The project is contingent upon the city receiving $12 million in federal Urban Development Action Grant funds. The project is expected to create 1,350 permanent jobs, 400 part-time jobs and 900 construction jobs. Dominos Pizza Corp. has opened a food distribution center on Midway Park Boulevard. The 5,400-square-foot facility will service stores in northern New Mexico, the Texas Panhandle and southern Colorado.

ALAMOGORDO / RUIDOSO AREA: Fluor Constructors Inc. of Irvine, California was awarded a $197 million contract to construct the facilities for the first phase of the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) ground-based free electron laser project at White Sands Missile Range (WSMR) near Orogrande, NM. The first phase is expected to employ up to 1,000 workers. Work on the SDI project is expected to Kbegin within two months, according to Pentagon officials. Also at WSMR, Lockheed Engineering and Management Services was awarded a $80 million contract to provide support services to the already existing High-Energy Laser Systems Test Facility, which is located about 25 miles west of Alamogordo.

CARLSBAD / ARTESIA AREA: The most recent progress report from the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant shows 676 workers employed at the site, including Bechtel and Sandia Lab employees. The completion date for the concrete work on Brantley Dam has been revised to June, and the entire project is expected to be completed in early 1988.

CLOVIS / PORTALES AREA: Furr's Supermarket in Clovis closed in mid-March, the result of a decision handed down by corporate headquarters in Lubbock, Texas. Furr's also announced plans to close stores in Roswell and Taos. The Clovis store employed about 30 workers.

FARMINGTON AREA: Work should begin shortly on a $1.179 million renovation project at Farmington High School; the project will include replacing heating, ventilating, air conditioning, and electrical systems, and numerous other additions and improvements. An official for the contractor, Jaynes Corp., stated that most workers on the project would be from the Farmington area. San Juan College's Office Careers Program has been selected as one of only ten recipients nationwide of the U.S. Secretary of Education's Award for Outstanding Vocational Education Programs. El Paso Natural Gas Co. has announced that it is eliminating 55 jobs in the Farmington area. The layoffs were caused by lower sales of natural gas, primarily to its customers in California.

GALLUP / GRANTS AREA: The City of Grants has received approval for a $200,000 loan from the State Department of Economic

Development and Tourism for development of an industrial park. The funding will pay for the installation of water, sewer, and utility lines, as well as street improvements. Sunwest Indian Arts, a local business that has outgrown its current facility, has expressed strong interest in relocating to the industrial park later this year. Alternative Bedding Corporation has temporarily laid off 21 employees; the employees are scheduled to return to work in two to three weeks.

HOBBS / LOVINGTON AREA: Construction on the Amoco Production Company carbon dioxide removal plant, located northeast of Hobbs near Denver City, Texas, is expected to be completed by mid-summer. Approximately 450 construction workers are employed at the Amoco facility. New Mexico Junior College, in partnership with General Motors Corp. (GM), will open a training center in Hobbs to teach high-technology auto mechanics. One of 39 such GM-supported programs around the country, the new center will initially have approximately 20 slots available. The program will give students 81 hours of college credit work leading up to an applied science degree in automotive technology.

LAS CRUCES AREA: Laboratory facilities are being built in the New Mexico State University (NMSU) Arrowhead Research Park for a new company, Bio-Recovery Systems Inc. (BSI). BSI, which currently employs 15 workers, is developing a device to remove dissolved metals from waste water, for use in industries such as metal plating and metal finishing. Once research and development work is completed on the process, BSI officials plan to locate a manufacturing operation in the area to produce the waste water units. Honeywell's Keyboard Division, formerly Micro Switch, recently laid off approximately 25 employees. Honeywell officials said their workforce will fluctuate in coming months in response to customer orders. The 70,000-square-foot Valu+ Discount Department store in Las Cruces is scheduled to close its doors in April, resulting in the layoff of about 50 workers.

LAS VEGAS AREA: San Miguel County was forced to lay off 22 employees in January because of a budget shortfall, and county officials indicate that further spending reductions may be necessary.

SANTA ROSA / TUCUMCARI AREA: J.W. Jones Construction Company of Albuquerque was the low bidder on a major highway project planned for U.S. 285 near the Guadalupe-Lincoln County line. The Jones firm bid $3.4 million for the State Highway Department project.

SILVER CITY AREA: Tatsch Construction of Silver City has been awarded a $1.2 million contract for additions to the Lordsburg High School. Chino Mines' new $4 million crusher is now undergoing initial testing. The crusher will increase capacity at the copper concentrator from 40,000 to 45,000 tons of ore per day when fully on-line.

TAOS AREA: Furr's Supermarkets has announced the closing of its Taos store, effective April 28; about 30 store employees will lose their jobs. Investors have purchased Angel Fire Resort for an undisclosed amount. The resort employs approximately 500 full and part-time employees and is experiencing one of its most profitable seasons in its 22 year history. Employment in the Taos Ski Valley area was also up during the season. The Valley currently employs 623 people; however, the season is scheduled to end on April 11 when the number of employed will drop to 50. Molycorp Inc. union members have voted to take a 28 percent cut in pay when and if the mine reopens. The mine had employed as many as 800 people before the low price of molybdenum forced it to close down last year.

NEW MEXICO LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES 1/

	PRELIMINARY FEBRUARY 1987				REVISED JANUARY 1987				REVISED FEBRUARY 1986			
	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate
STATEWIDE	669,438	604,038	65,400	9.8%	664,223	598,551	65,672	9.9%	653,334	592,842	60,492	9.3%
ALBUQUERQUE MSA 2/	256,357	239,929	16,428	6.4%	255,120	237,929	17,191	6.7%	247,140	231,595	15,545	6.3%
LAS CRUCES MSA 3/	55,056	50,973	4,083	7.4%	53,275	49,347	3,928	7.4%	52,367	48,291	4,076	7.8%
SANTA FE MSA 4/	63,227	59,172	4,055	6.4%	62,876	58,969	3,907	6.2%	60,971	57,326	3,645	6.0%
Catron	1,139	904	235	20.6%	1,073	870	203	18.9%	1,026	793	233	22.7%
Chaves	22,316	19,843	2,473	11.1%	22,287	19,933	2,354	10.6%	21,950	19,461	2,489	11.3%
Cibola	8,464	6,923	1,541	18.2%	8,481	6,942	1,539	18.1%	8,685	6,875	1,810	20.8%
Colfax	6,541	5,525	1,016	15.5%	6,595	5,612	983	14.9%	6,670	5,732	938	14.1%
Curry	17,378	15,917	1,461	8.4%	17,431	15,940	1,491	8.6%	16,751	15,473	1,278	7.6%
De Baca	839	734	105	12.5%	839	731	108	12.9%	867	741	126	14.5%
Eddy	21,641	18,725	2,916	13.5%	21,736	18,345	3,391	15.6%	22,229	18,687	3,542	15.9%
Grant	9,792	8,619	1,173	12.0%	9,738	8,529	1,209	12.4%	9,618	8,338	1,280	13.3%
Guadalupe	1,632	1,266	366	22.4%	1,648	1,310	338	20.5%	1,539	1,245	294	19.1%
Harding	403	353	50	12.4%	389	345	44	11.3%	415	366	49	11.8%
Hidalgo	2,361	2,214	147	6.2%	2,401	2,250	151	6.3%	2,411	2,235	176	7.3%
Lea	23,988	20,986	3,002	12.5%	23,778	20,860	2,918	12.3%	26,255	24,262	1,993	7.6%
Lincoln	6,740	6,076	664	9.9%	6,716	6,042	674	10.0%	6,440	5,875	565	8.8%
Luna	5,615	4,673	942	16.8%	5,560	4,629	931	16.7%	5,405	4,534	871	16.1%
McKinley	16,878	14,481	2,397	14.2%	16,944	14,428	2,516	14.8%	16,954	14,607	2,347	13.8%
Mora	1,172	691	481	41.0%	1,161	705	456	39.3%	1,381	800	581	42.1%
Otero	18,120	16,599	1,521	8.4%	17,793	16,306	1,487	8.4%	17,346	15,825	1,521	8.8%
Quay	4,388	3,951	437	10.0%	4,376	3,928	448	10.2%	4,274	3,818	456	10.7%
Rio Arriba	13,415	10,079	3,336	24.9%	13,051	10,023	3,028	23.2%	13,434	10,360	3,074	22.9%
Roosevelt	7,243	6,832	411	5.7%	7,046	6,623	423	6.0%	7,089	6,674	415	5.9%
Sandoval	21,585	19,502	2,083	9.7%	21,726	19,513	2,213	10.2%	20,761	18,803	1,958	9.4%
San Juan	35,124	28,622	6,502	18.5%	34,979	28,708	6,271	17.9%	34,664	30,029	4,635	13.4%
San Miguel	9,727	8,230	1,497	15.4%	9,283	7,827	1,456	15.7%	9,462	8,049	1,413	14.9%
Sierra	2,478	2,218	260	10.5%	2,451	2,196	255	10.4%	2,284	2,094	190	8.3%
Socorro	5,842	5,236	606	10.4%	5,576	4,995	581	10.4%	5,719	5,188	531	9.3%
Taos	10,086	7,136	2,950	29.2%	10,060	7,130	2,930	29.1%	10,618	8,150	2,468	23.2%
Torrance	3,142	2,713	429	13.7%	3,132	2,697	435	13.9%	3,022	2,615	407	13.5%
Union	1,880	1,689	191	10.2%	1,857	1,691	166	8.9%	1,951	1,795	156	8.0%
Valencia	14,869	13,227	1,642	11.0%	14,845	13,198	1,647	11.1%	13,636	12,206	1,430	10.5%

1/ All estimates are made in strict accordance with methodology provided by the U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

2/ Metropolitan Statistical Area - Bernalillo County

3/ Metropolitan Statistical Area - Dona Ana County

4/ Metropolitan Statistical Area - Santa Fe and Los Alamos Counties

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Unemployment Rates by State, 1986 Annual Averages